

Appl. No.: 10/689,580
Amdt. dated August 23, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 23, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated May 23, 2006, Claims 1-15, 17-25, 28, 30, 32, 33, 35-42, 44-49, 51-53, 55-60, 63-80, 82, 84-88, 90-92, 94-96, 98-101, and 103-106 were allowed. Claims 16, 26, 27, 29, 31, 34, 43, 50, 54, 61, 62, 81, 93, 97, and 102 were objected to for minor informalities, but were found to be otherwise allowable. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's thorough examination of the application as evidenced by the Office Action. In light of the Office Action, Applicant has amended the claims per the Examiner's suggestions to overcome the objections. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as currently presented are patentable over the cited references. As such, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the application in light of the above amendments.

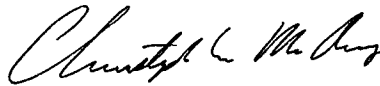
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CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments and the remarks presented above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' counsel to discuss any outstanding issues so as to expedite the application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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